Representations from the Planters' Associations and the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board.

Subject No. 1 was introduced by (1). Mr. Graham Anderson, C.I.E., (Coffee Planter, R. M. from the South Mysore European Planters' Association) and (2) Mr. A. F. Clifford (Coffee Planter, R. M. from North Mysore European Planters' Association).

No. 2 by Mr. R. Hancock (Superintendent, Mysore Company, Urigam, R. M. from Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board).

Subject No. 1.

(a) United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Summary of discussion.—Mr. Graham Anderson, C.I.E., (Coffee Planter and Representative Member from South Mysore European Planters' Association) began by alluding to the formation of a "United Planters' Association of Southern India" at the Conference of Planters last held at Bangalore, and said that the existence of such a body, besides being useful to the Planters themselves, was a guarantee to Government that nothing which had not been most carefully studied in the light of collective experience and necessity would ever be represented.

The United Planters' Association would be a recognized medium for representing the collective interests of the Planting Community, both European and Native.

(b) Draft Estates Labor Act.

He then drew attention to a draft Labor Act which the Honorable Mr. Romilly had drawn up and submitted to the Government of Madras as embodying the requirements of the Planting Community and indicating the object and bearing of the amendments of the existing Act XIII of 1859 which Planters so much needed. Mr. Anderson pointed out that Act XIII of 1859 was originally framed to suit the requirements of Presidency Towns, and it was no wonder that when subsequently employed to meet the exigencies of rural industries, without modification but with limitations imposed by numerous conflicting interpretations, it came to be useless and even mischievous. The proposed draft measure made the law clear both to Magistrates and to Planters and was approved by the Planting Community, and Mr. Anderson asked for it the cordial sympathy and support of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja. Mr. Anderson presented a copy of the proposed draft, and it is printed as an appendix in this volume.

(c) Coffee Stealing Prevention Act No. VIII of 1878.

Mr. Graham Anderson next spoke a few words on the Coffee Stealing Prevention Act (Act No. VIII of 1878). He regretted that the Supreme Government had refused to sanction the equitable amendments which the Madras Government

had proposed. The subject however had been further discussed with full explanations of the special requirements of this Presidency apparent on a comparison of the circumstances existing in Madras with those prevailing in Bengal. Mr. Anderson asked for the sympathy and support of the Mysore Government in this matter also. There are, he pointed out, 16,079 European and Native Planters in the country growing coffee. There are 16,856 villages in the country covered by a net work of bazaars held at different places on every day in the week. From this it would readily be understood what facilities are afforded for committing thefts and for getting rid of the stolen coffee. At nearly every bazaar in the Malnad, stolen coffee is bartered for other produce, and without the simple amendments proposed by the Government of Madras, the existing law is absolutely powerless to cope with the difficulty which exists. The Government of Mysore would, Mr. Graham Anderson said, scarcely agree with the Supreme Government in holding that the Coffee Industry already had very exceptional protection and that any further legislation in its interests was undesirable.

[Mr. Graham Anderson next made some representations on the need for a European Member of His Highness' Council. These will be summarized hereafter under a separate heading.]

(d) Compulsory Registration of Mestris.

Mr. Anderson alluded next to a measure for the Compulsory Registration of Méstris which he said was also under the consideration of the Madras Government. It was essential that the protection afforded by the measure should be introduced in Madras and Mysore simultaneously. The measure would enable all Mestris to prove their trustworthiness by providing an authentic register of past services and a voucher of character and of fitness for service, which would also be a ready help for obtaining employment to those in search of it. It would materially discourage attempts at fraud.

(e) Jurisdiction of Magistrates over defrauding coolies.

Mr. Anderson next referred to jurisdiction of Magistrates over defrauding coolies. In view of the inconvenience arising from Mysore warrants being inoperative in Madras Territory, it had been suggested at one time that if it was impossible to alter the law connected with extradition, it might at least be found practicable to appoint Special Magistrates here, whose processes should have the same validity as those issued by Courts in British Territory. This suggestion having proved unacceptable to the Madras Government, the subject was further discussed and the result which met with the approval of His Excellency the Governor of Madras was embodied in a resolution of the United Planters' Association to the effect that British Magistrates in the District in which the accused resided or in which the contract was entered into, be empowered to endorse and get executed summonses and bailable warrants issued by Magistrates in Native States.

(f) Hassan-Malnad roads.

Mr. Graham Anderson next stated that the condition of the following roads in the Hassan District was bad, *viz*:—

(1) Gonibid-Belur road from the 14th mile to the junction with the Mudgere road.

(2) Saklespur-Mudgere road from Anemahal to the first iron bridge.

(3) Kenchamman-Hoskote road from Bollu to Hoskota.

No reflection was meant on the executive staff. The traffic on these roads was heavy and more allotments for their maintenance were necessary. The speedy completion of the Ossur-Gonibid road for which European and Native Planters had subscribed was necessary and it would open up an extensive tract of most fertile country besides being useful to existing estates.

(g) Draft Game Preservation Regulation.

Mr. Anderson next represented the urgent necessity for early adoption of the Game Preservation Act, draft of which was under consideration. It would, he said, be welcomed by all who took an intelligent interest in the resources and attractions of the country. The indiscriminate slaughter of animals and birds without reference to age, sex or season could not but be repugnant to all right minded men. The introduction of a close time, the strict preservation of females and young, and stern provisions against snaring, trapping and netting would have a most beneficial effect.

[*Note*.—Mr. Srinivasa Rao (Coffee Planter and Representative Member from the Chikmagalur Taluk) asked that the proposed Game Preservation Regulation and the rules and orders thereunder be circulated among the Malnad gaudas also for their opinions and suggestions, as they were much interested in the subject.]

(h) Travellers' Bungalows.

Mr. Anderson next touched upon the insufficient supply of requisites at various Travellers' Bungalows. A notification was issued some years ago, indicating that in order to make these establishments to some extent self-supporting and to provide an adequate supply of furniture, crockery, cutlery and napery, it was desirable to institute a scale of fees. These fees were now levied and gladly paid. But there was a sad deficiency of requisites of the different classes named. The deficiency should be supplied early to make these Bungalows useful and attractive.

(i) Acknowledgments of the South Mysore Planters' Association.

Mr. Anderson concluded by thanking Government for the introduction of the amended Cattle Trespass Regulation and the extension of its special provisions to the Coffee Tracts.

Mr. A. F. Clifford (Coffee Planter from the Kadur District) next followed with representations on behalf of the North Mysore Planters' Association, of which the following is a summary :—

(j) Kadur - Malnad roads.

Roads in the Kadur District have deteriorated as the speaker can well judge after an absence of 5 years from the country.

Their efficient condition has a material influence on the price of labor and the necessaries of life to the Planter. If deterioration is due to heavy traffic, that is an additional reason for larger allotments and better care in supervision of repairs. As the Malnad wants outlay on roads only and not on irrigation, and as Malnad roads are more expensive to make and maintain than Maidan roads, as much may be allotted for roads in the Malnad as for both roads and irrigation in the Maidan. 24 per cent of the L. F. cess collections of the District are taken for education purposes. But it is not all spent in the District, and probably cannot be so spent owing to the sparse population. Better take what is absolutely necessary and devote the rest to roads.

(k) Bridge across the Bhadra at Tadasa.

A bridge across the Bhadra River at Tadasa is urgently required on the road connecting Tarikere and Koppa. 1,200 bandies now pass along the road on bazaar days. If a bridge be constructed, the traffic will increase enormously. A toll on the proposed bridge may be levied, if necessary, to provide a return for the outlay on the bridge.

(l) Head-Quarters of Koppa Taluk.

The present Taluk Treasury at Harihalpur should be removed to Koppa which is more central and convenient. The change is desired by both Europeans and Natives, official and non-official.

(m) Proposed Taluk Cutcherry at Balehonnur.

A Taluk Cutcherry at Balehonnur was proposed last year and the subject is before Government. An early decision is solicited.

[Mr. Clifford then went on to support Mr. Anderson in the representations he had made with reference to the Coffee Stealing Prevention Act, the proposed Game Law and the representations of European interests in His Highness' Council, the proposed Labor Law (which Mr. Clifford said was only a common sense reading of Act 13 of 1859), the Compulsory Registration of Mestris and the Jurisdiction of Magistrates in Mysore and British India over defrauding coolies wherever they might be.]

(n) Draft form of agreement between Estate employer and employee.

As these measures would take time in passing and as in the meanwhile Act 13 of 1859 had to be reckoned with, Mr. Clifford asked for the draft form of agreement between employer and employee which the Dewan promised to cause to be drawn up by the legal advisers of Government and which, if it were forthcoming, would tend to simplify matters.

(o) Acknowledgments of the North Mysore Planters' Association.

Mr: Clifford concluded by congratulating the Dewan on behalf of the N. M. Planters' Association on the prosperity enjoyed by the Province under the present administration, and added—"We are proud of our connection with a State governed "on such enlightened principles, and we are fully alive to the "fact that our interests and our welfare depend on its ad- "vancement and progress."

Dewan's reply.—We have heard these representations on

various matters with interest. The Legislative measures proposed are under consideration, and we are suggesting some points and are prepared to suggest others to the British Government, bearing on the matters now brought forward. We sent up draft of a Game Law, and have received it with some modifications suggested by the Government of India. The rules and notifications under it are being drawn up. We shall try and give you a draft form of agreement between employers and employees such as our Government Advocate can suggest. We cannot guarantee its sufficiency, nor should we be understood as committing ourselves to enforcing it. We should be understood as only giving you the best legal advice at our disposal.

(p) Council.

Mr. Graham Anderson said that the South Mysore Planters' Association at first deemed it unnecessary that he should refer here to the subject of representation of European Industrial interests in the Council of His Highness the Maharaja, as a petition was to be addressed on the subject by the United Planters' Association to Government. But he had since been instructed to refer to it in consequence of a published resolution of the North Mysore Native Planters' Association on the subject which was in direct opposition to the views of the United Planters' Association. Mr. Anderson was instructed to point out that the concession desired by the United Planters' Association related to the appointment of a European Member of His Highness' Council who would represent not only the interests of the Coffee planting enterprise but those of all industries in the Province in which European capital was invested and European interests were involved. Such a member need not necessarily be a Planter, and the Government could make their own selection from the Planting, Mining, Commercial and other Industrial Communities. The more continuous representation of such interests was a matter of extreme importance, and it was essentially desirable that in each separate Province, Mysore included, the position, prospects and special requirements of the various enterprises should be most carefully studied and arrangements made for the collection and exchange of information gained by practical experience in all parts of the Presidency. In his opinion, the history of the coffee industry in Mysore afforded a conspicuous example of the need for such study and for the right appreciation of the Planters' difficulties, and of the concessions necessary from Government for the support and encouragement of the industry. It took 20 years of correspondence and enquiry and a visit to the coffee country by Mr. Rangacharlu and Sir James Gordon, resulting in a personal verification and appreciation of all that had been previously stated, before the question of land tenure was settled, and His Highness the Maharaja, on assuming charge of the Government, granted the Permanent Settlement by which all

concerned had been greatly benefited. Questions connected with fraudulent breaches of contract by coolies and mestris and with Coffee stealing prevention were still subjects of most tedious correspondence. There was every reason to know that in conducting the numerous preliminaries which invariably precede administrative changes the officers of Government had frequent cause to regret the absence of facilities for confidential discussion and for readily obtaining reliable information relative to the equitable requirements of industries before coming to any conclusion in the matter. Mr. Anderson went on to explain that the elements of election to Council or control over the administration of the country were, in no way, associated with or involved in his proposal. He referred to the Dewan's remarks made in 1890 to the effect that non-official members would be useful in a Legislative Council but a Legislative Council was not required as there was very little Legislative work to do and what laws were passed were on the lines of the British Indian Legislature, and Mr. Anderson stated that whatever the exact constitution and functions of His Highness' Council might be, the gratuitous services of a trustworthy and competent practical man would be valuable to Government, and enable it to be more closely in touch with the industries concerned. The North Mysore Native Planters' Association had observed that Standing Committees to be consulted on technical matters affecting the industries concerned would be sufficient. But Mr. Anderson contended that this would not be sufficient and it would lead to inconvenience and some embarrassment and fail to afford the friendly non-official and confidential advice which the proposed member of Council would give. Mr. Anderson concluded by saying that he had consulted Mr. Hancock, the R. M. from the Mining Board, and Mr. Clifford, R. M. from the North Mysore Planters' Association, and that they fully concurred in the observations he had advanced.

Mr. Srinivasa Rao (Coffee Planter and R.M. from the Chikmagalur Taluk) observed that he saw no reason for the proposal that the additional member of Council should be a European. It was true that there were some European Planters in the country, but much of the capital they spent was capital borrowed in the country itself, and there was a large number of Native Planters also who had sunk their own capital in the land, and a Native Planter member of Council would also be necessary if a European Planter were appointed. Then there were the Mining industries in the country and the weaving mills industry, and trading industries, and so on, and it would follow that each of these should be represented on the Council. We should then have a very unwieldy Council and experience much practical inconvenience therefrom. Additions to the Maharaja's Council which takes a part in the executive administration of the country were out

of the question, and the Dewan had stated that there was no work for a Legislative Council. Under such circumstances, rather than imitate the example of Madras and Bengal, the better course would be for each industry to have a sort of Standing Committee to furnish all information required and to represent and prosecute the interests of the industry represented by it. Such a Committee was, for example, the Gold Mining Board, and Government were consulting them on the Gold Mining Regulation.

Mr. Anderson observed that he did not want to exclude a native non-official member. He was only asking that European interests might be represented by a European. He would not stand in Mr. Srinivasa Rao's way. If Mr. Srinivasa Rao wanted a Native member also, and if that was his object, he was at liberty to urge it. A Legislative Council was promised in the course of the Proceedings relating to the Assumption of Power by His Highness the Maharaja in 1881.

The *Dewan* observed that no such promise had been made and that if there was the necessity for forming a Legislative Council as in Madras, Government would form one. But the need did not exist at present. Arrangements could perhaps be made to obtain on special measures the opinions of gentlemen interested in them.

Mr. Anderson pointed out that Travancore had a Legislative Council, as to which Mr. Subbaiya observed that Travancore had no Representative Assembly, and the Legislative Council there was not as representative of the people's interests as the Mysore Assembly was. He argued that it was better to leave it to Government to do what was proper and suitable. Mr. Nanjunda Rao spoke in favor of constituting a Legislative Assembly, and remarked that in such an assembly all regulations could be discussed and adapted to the requirements of the various classes of the community. Such bodies existed elsewhere and in British Territory also. Mr. Sadasiva Rao pleading that he did not know English and therefore had failed to follow Mr. Anderson, spoke to the effect that a Legislative Council was not required in Mysore. There was very little of Legislative work. Laws passed in British India were adopted here with modifications required by local circumstances and after consulting public and representative bodies. There would be little or nothing for a Legislative Assembly to do.

Mr. A. Ramanna, Advocate and R. M. from the Mysore Town Municipality observed that we had a Representative Assembly and the question was whether a Legislative Council was necessary in addition to this and to the Council of His Highness constituted as it was. Mr. Anderson wanted a European member to be added to the Maharaja's Council. This was a question relating to the constitution of the Government, which was beyond the province of this Assembly. Speaking on its

merits, he argued that such addition was unnecessary as the present council was sufficiently numerous. As to a Legislative Council in addition to the Representative Assembly, the speaker contended that it would be of less use than the Representative Assembly, that the existing arrangements regarding the Assembly were good and only needed further development. Much of what had been urged seemed to assume that there were only Planters' interests to serve and none other, whereas as a matter of fact, planting interests formed but a small fraction of the interests of the country generally. The constitution of the Dasara Representative Assembly allowed of even the poorest interests being represented and of the Government being approached in regard to them. If a Council were to be constituted so as to represent all interests such as planters, merchants, weavers, miners, manufacturers, &c., &c., it would become numerous and unmanageable, and little better than a debating society. Far better that a central body like Government should consult the several interests as occasion arose, through the Government Secretaries and Heads of Departments, respectively, concerned with them. A council of the kind proposed would also lead to the deterioration of this Assembly. "Our prayer on the contrary is," said the member, "that this Assembly should live long, grow and improve "as it grows." (Loud applause from the Assembly). On the Dewan enquiring whether there was any one else who wished to speak on the subject, there were loud cries of "we are all "of the same opinion as Mr. Ramanna" from various parts of the Assembly.

Mr. Venkatakrishnaiya (School Master and R. M. from Mysore City Municipality) observed that the necessity for a council of some kind had been recognized at the Rendition, and the existing council was then formed. As then constituted, it was a Legislative Council. It had since become an executive council in its functions and was deficient in the number originally fixed. A Legislative Chamber exists in most places, European countries included. Such a Council would be useful advisers of Government, more useful than Secretaries and Heads of Departments who did not move much among the people and who not being of the people were not in close touch with them. The speaker advocated the enlargement of the present council. Let all interests be represented on it, said he, not necessarily by election purely, but let it be by election from a list of eligible men to be framed by Government. The Representative Assembly met but once in the year, whereas a council of the kind advocated would sit always, and when any representation had to be urgently made, it would be made at once. Mr. Seshanna (Landholder and R. M. from Goribidnur Taluk) enquired how a few men could efficiently do what we, 276 men, now did at the Representative Assembly. Mr. Venkatramaiya (Shanbhog and R. M. from the Channarayapatna Taluk) said that they

could not do this. The present arrangements were, in his opinion, sufficient and far better. It was merely the residents of Mysore City who asked for such an enlarged Council as had been described. The Moffusil Representatives did not approve of it. Mr. Kalasapur Tammaiya (Coffee Planter and R. M. from Hassan District L. F. Board) concurred, and added that the representations made in this Assembly on behalf of the various interests in the country were being heard and acted upon in the best interests of the community as a whole. That was sufficient.

Dewan's reply.—When the necessity arises for constituting a Legislative Council we will of course form one, and in doing so take into consideration the various suggestions which have been made to-day. The Planters have been asking for certain Legislative measures and have not yet got them, not because the Durbar are unwilling or there is not a Planter member on His Highness' Council. The measures they want have to emanate from the British Legislature.

Subject No. 2.
Representations on behalf of the Mining Board.

Mr. R. Hancock (R. M. from the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board) spoke a few words on the following subjects:—

(a) Legislation for the protection of Gold Quartz, &c.

(*a*) The Dewan was good enough to receive a deputation from the Kolar Mining Board since the meeting of the last D. R. A. on the subject of Legislation for the protection of Gold Quartz amalgam, sponge-gold or gold in the course of preparation.

(b) Gold Fields Road.

(*b*) The roads have been bad and, in some parts, dangerous. Repairs have recently been taken in hand. But they should be completed soon, and three or four coolies continually employed on every mile to maintain it in good condition.

(c) A loop road required.

(*c*) A loop road about two miles in length to join the Betamangalam Main Road to that leading from Bowringpet to the Mines is necessary, as it will afford facilities for reaching the Balaghat Railway Station from either side of the Gold Fields.

(d) Acknowledgments of the Gold Field Mining Board.

(*d*) Acknowledgments of the Board for the Gold Fields Railway opened a few months ago, and for the manner in which the wants of the Mining interests have been attended to by the Government.

Dewan's reply.—A draft of the proposed Regulation for the protection of Gold Quartz, &c., was sent to the Board, and the Board furnished Government with their remarks and suggestions. The Government of India desired that the measure should be held in abeyance, pending a report on certain investigations which they have ordered their Inspector of Mines (Mr. Grundy) to make. This information has been already furnished to the Gold Mining Board. Mr. Grundy is making these investigations and is now in Kolar. The other points shall receive consideration.